

individuals committed to challenging the limits of our knowledge and to the advancement of humanity. These brave souls have left us, but their spirit will remain forever.

Our Nation will always remember these heroes—Commander Rick D. Husband, Pilot William C. McCool, Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson, Mission Specialist David M. Brown, Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon. I ask the Almighty to guard the souls of these greatest examples of humanity, and that they be loved and remembered with the deepest of gratitude and admiration for their dedication to advancing our understanding of the universe and discovering ways that science can improve our lives.

Thanks to missions like that of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, we live, you might say, in a completely different universe than we did a generation ago, and our children will live in a totally different universe in their adulthood than we do now. We forge this path of progress from the sacrifices of brave souls like the crew of the *Columbia*. It is at times of grief that we find the higher purpose in our lives—our faith in God, love of family, and a dedication to the advancement of humanity.

We find ourselves conflicted by the pain of losing some of the greatest examples of humanity and overcoming our fear of breaking from the shell of our known universe and receiving with open arms the wealth of knowledge that awaits us. In the end, we must surrender to our scientific impulse and our restless, altogether human curiosity about the physical universe. We are incapable of nothing, and, like the universe and the love in our hearts, our future is without limits.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS JORDAN HAGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Jordan Hager, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch, the Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada and the National Scouting Museum. Over the 9 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide, assistant senior patrol leader and junior assistant scoutmaster. Nicholas also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miler Award and the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nicholas constructed an ornamental garden wall at the west side of the south entrance of Danner Park in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas Jordan Hager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, these brave men and women, representing the best of America and the world, gave the greatest sacrifice for the betterment of humanity. They knew the risks of their heroic enterprise. Their courage is the finest example of human aspirations, of reaching up to create an undreamed-of future. They are true heroes. They pushed the limits of technological and human potential and in doing so inspired our Nation and the world. Their memories will long endure.

Imagine a world with less air pollution, less dependence on oil, new fire suppression technologies, better earthquake resistant buildings, better weather prediction models, and better medical techniques to fight cancer, diabetes, and antibiotic resistance. This is the world the astronauts aboard *Columbia* were striving for. By carrying out more than 80 scientific experiments to expand our knowledge in these and other fields, the seven astronauts were tackling today's big issues with big science. They were pushing scientific boundaries to provide clues to issues we have been unable to resolve here on Earth.

In my district resides the NASA Glenn Research Center, whose scientists were well acquainted with the seven shuttle astronauts who we lost in this tragedy. The crewmembers had traveled to Glenn several times a year for training on the scientific experiments. They were family to our NASA researchers in Cleveland.

In their memory, we will push forward. We will continue to apply big science to resolve our big challenges. The scientists in Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center and across the Nation will strive for better solutions out of respect for the crew of *Columbia*. May they rest in peace.

SIKH LAWYER'S REFUSAL TO RE- MOVE TURBAN HELPS TO EX- PAND CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, the New York Times ran an article about New Jersey lawyer Ravinder Singh Bhalla. Mr. Bhalla won a significant victory for civil rights when he got the rules changed regarding searches at our prisons.

Mr. Bhalla went to visit a client at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where I am from. The guards would not let him in because he refused to remove his turban. Mr. Bhalla informed the guards that the turban is

not a hat, but is a religious symbol required of all observant Sikhs. Mr. Bhalla is of the Sikhs faith. He cited his first amendment right to practice his religion and his fourth amendment protection against unreasonable searches, nothing that he had already passed through the metal detector. He also cited his client's sixth amendment right to see his lawyer, a right that could not be exercised unless Mr. Bhalla was allowed into the prison.

Mr. Bhalla took his case to the Federal District Court in Newark. Then on January 17, the Federal Bureau of Prisons changed the policy, saying that turbans, prayer shawls, yarmulkes, and other religious items do not have to be searched. I commend the Bureau of Prisons for this enlightened decision, and I commend Mr. Bhalla for taking a stand on principle. By doing so, he has raised awareness of the rights of the Sikhs in this country and made all Americans more conscious of civil rights for all members of our diverse society.

Sikhs have been subjected to attacks and violence in the wake of the horrible September 11 attacks. A Sikh gas station operator was murdered in his gas station in Arizona simply because he wore a turban. All in all, there have been over 300 attacks on Sikhs. These attacks stem mostly from ignorance coupled with Americans' legitimate anger at the events of September 11. Because Osama bin Laden wears a turban, some ignorant people assume that anyone who wears a turban is a terrorist and an enemy of this country. Nothing could be further from the truth, as Mr. Bhalla showed us. There are over 500,000 Sikhs in this country and they are proud Americans who contribute in all walks of life from law and medicine to farming. One Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, served two terms in the House in the late fifties and early sixties.

African-Americans have been through the civil rights struggle; in some ways we are still fighting it. As Mr. Bhalla says, Sikhs are going through many of the same things. By taking a stand for his rights, Mr. Bhalla has expanded Americans' awareness of Sikhs and expanded our tolerance as a society, something that benefits us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the New York Times article on Mr. Bhalla into the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 28, 2003]

HOW ONE MAN TOOK A STAND AND CHANGED
FEDERAL POLICY TOWARD THE SIKH COMMU-
NITY

(By Ronald Smothers)

NEWARK, Jan. 27.—When guards at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center demanded last September that a Newark lawyer let them search his turban before being admitted to visit a client, they may have not have known much about the traditions of his Sikh faith.

"To a Sikh, removing his turban in public is the same as a strip-search and as intrusive as asking a woman to remove her blouse," said the lawyer, Ravinder Singh Bhalla.

But Mr. Bhalla, 29, knew quite a bit about the traditions of American law. Born in New Jersey of immigrant parents and educated at the University of California, the London School of Economics and Tulane University Law School, he knew his rights and was not afraid to list them, one by one.

There was his First Amendment right to practice his religion, including the ritual public wearing of the head covering, he told the guards. Then he expounded on his Fourth

Amendment right against unreasonable searches, since he had already passed through the metal detector without setting off alarms. Finally there was his client's Sixth Amendment right to the lawyer of his choice—a right that could be exercised only if Mr. Bhalla forfeited his own rights.

Mr. Bhalla refused to remove his turban, and the guards refused to let him in. But on Jan. 17, the federal Bureau of Prisons issued a clarification of its search policy, after Mr. Bhalla asserted all of these rights in Federal District Court here, before the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice in Washington and, armed with letters of support from a host of Sikh groups, directly to the Bureau of Prisons hierarchy.

Dan Dunn, a spokesman for the bureau, said that religious garments like turbans, prayer shawls or yarmulkes need not be considered part of the routine searches of personal effects that prison guards must make of visitors. They could be searched, he said, if there is a "reasonable suspicion that the person is about to engage in or is engaging in criminal activity."

What Mr. Dunn described as a simple clarification of policy is being hailed as a milestone by Mr. Bhalla and others. They say that by treating searches of religious garments as distinct from other personal-effects searches and subjecting them to stricter requirements, the agency is recognizing their intrusiveness.

"This marks a significant improvement in agency policy," said Harpreet Singh, the director of the Sikh Coalition, an amalgam of groups representing the nation's estimated 500,000 Sikhs. The group was founded just after Sept. 11, 2001, when many Sikhs found themselves the objects of suspicion at airports and elsewhere.

Since the terror attacks, he said, his group has won concessions from the federal Department of Transportation on airport security searches of Sikhs, given the faith's prohibitions against removing turbans, as well as the requirement among the more devout that they carry a "kirpan," or dagger.

Under the department's revised procedures, turbans will not be searched unless there is a positive reading on a metal detector. For their part, Sikh groups have agreed that it is legitimate to require those carrying daggers to secure the items in their checked luggage.

"But the broader significance of all of this is that we are educating a broader range of people about Sikhs and our rights," Mr. Singh said.

Sikhism, a monotheistic religion, dates back to the 15th century in the Punjab region of what is now India. Its doctrine has evolved through a succession of prophets or gurus, and in an atmosphere of persecution by the larger numbers of Hindus and Muslims in South Asia. One of Sikhism's main requirements is that adherents not cut their hair, which is considered a visible testament to their connection with their creator, especially in times of persecution.

Mr. Bhalla said many people mistakenly believe that the Sikh turban is a hatlike garment molded in one piece. It is actually a long swath of cotton, 3 feet by more than 15 feet, which takes Mr. Bhalla 15 minutes each morning to fold and carefully wind onto his head.

In taking on Mr. Bhalla at the gates of the Metropolitan Detention Center, guards may have picked the wrong person, said Gerald Krovatin, a New Jersey criminal lawyer in whose firm Mr. Bhalla works. Mr. Krovatin said that last November his colleague was one of the founding members of the national Sikh Bar Association and the only one among the estimated 50 Sikh lawyers in the country who is a criminal litigator.

Perhaps the seminal moment for Mr. Bhalla came in a federal courtroom in New-

ark when he was just 13. He and his father were attending a hearing for two Sikh community leaders whom the United States attorney's office was trying to extradite to India as suspected terrorists.

Mr. Bhalla recalled that SWAT teams and snipers were stationed outside the court, and plainclothes agents shadowed his and his father's every step because the judge and the prosecutor had reported receiving death threats. It turned out that the prosecutor in the case was the one sending the death threats, apparently in an effort to heighten the sense of danger.

Mr. Bhalla said the incident taught him how "ridiculous" stereotyping and prejudice could be.

"Right now Sikhs are going through some of the same things that African-Americans went through, and like them we are learning the importance of having some political power and knowing how the system works," he said. "But we are just starting."

TRIBUTE TO AARON MARK DUNN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Mark Dunn, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch and the Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada. Over the 6 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide and junior assistant scoutmaster. Aaron also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miler Award and the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Aaron renovated, repaired and painted the Wheeling Municipal Ball Park in Wheeling, Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Mark Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING GUEST CHAPLAIN,
PASTOR BARRY COOK, AMBASSADOR FAMILY CHURCH, OCEANSIDE, CA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Senior Pastor Barry Cook, of the Ambassador Family Church in Oceanside, California.

Pastor Barry Cook was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. He attended Logos Christian College and has a doctorate in Ministry, Christian Leadership, and Church Growth. Dr. Cook has been a full-time minister for almost 20 years.

Pastor Cook is joined today by his wife Terri, whom he has been married to for 13 years. He is also joined by his daughter, Joy, who is a fourth grader at Vista Christian School.

After opening its doors seven years ago, Ambassador Family Church has quickly grown to approximately 800 attending members. Pastor Cook has been very active in outreach efforts to the community through local food and clothing distribution, financial recovery seminars, leadership classes and marriage and family counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chaplain Coughlin for his invitation to Pastor Cook to offer the invocation. I would also like to thank the Cooks for traveling to our Nation's capital to be with us today.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and all America in extending heartfelt sympathy and sincere appreciation to the families of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* crew and the entire NASA family. We are honored by the sacrifices these families have made supporting their loved ones in the space program.

When the *Columbia* did not return as scheduled on February 1, 2003, the former employees of a now closed aerospace plant, as well as the local residents, felt a particularly painful loss. Key portions of the mighty Space Shuttle *Columbia* were built in my Congressional District at the former Rockwell International plant in the City of Downey.

Years before most Americans would become familiar with NASA's space shuttle program, construction of *Columbia* was in full swing at the Rockwell plant in Downey. The crew modules, the rear fuselage and the forward reaction control system were all constructed locally with dozens of subcontractors contributing to the effort. At its peak, the project employed 14,000 local residents.

The men and women who helped build the *Columbia* took great pride in their labor and in each of the shuttle's successful flights. It was their work that built the shuttle, that put it and its crew in space and that safely brought them all home again. For them, the *Columbia* truly was a labor of both love and pride.

Losing the *Columbia* was a particularly emotional blow for workers of the former shuttle-manufacturing plant since they had also worked on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. For the people of Downey and the former employees of Rockwell, the crews of the *Columbia* and the *Challenger* will forever have a special place in their hearts and in the history of the city.

I commend Downey's civic and business leaders for their current efforts to utilize the now-empty birthplace of the early shuttles as the linchpin of their economic revitalization efforts. Their plans to include a space museum